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NJMC Awards \$1.7M to Meadowlands District Municipalities

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) awarded \$1.7 million in grant funding to its 14 member towns this week, the latest effort in the Commission's commitment to enhancing quality of life in the Meadowlands District. The grants will be used to fund a variety of projects including downtown revitalization, new emergency equipment and capital improvements.

"Through its Municipal Assistance Program and other funding initiatives the NJMC has made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of residents and business owners in the Meadowlands District," said Joseph Doria, Chairman of the NJMC and Commissioner of the state Department of Community Affairs. "We are proud to provide these resources to help communities do more, without burdening their taxpayers."

The NJMC on Thursday allocated \$100,000 to each District municipality through its annual Municipal Assistance Program (MAP). Towns have used MAP grant funding in the past for several purposes, including the purchase of new police vehicles, fire trucks and ambulances, public works trucks and equipment, park and sidewalk improvements and park and community beautification projects. Towns have until Dec. 5 to submit their list of projects for this year's MAP grants.

Also this week the NJMC awarded \$310,000 in downtown revitalization grants. This grant program came out of the 2004 Hearing Officers' Report and Recommendations on the Proposed Meadowlands Xanadu Redevelopment Project and are funded by Xanadu. The NJMC contributed to the report and pressed for the grants.

"The NJMC worked hard to ensure that local municipalities were provided with resources to maintain and further develop downtown business districts, which play such a vital role in the community," said Robert Ceberio, Executive Director of the NJMC. "A vibrant downtown brings in tax revenue, contributes to a town's identity and is a source of pride. We are delighted to award this funding."

The towns will receive downtown revitalization funding toward the following projects:

Carlstadt: Purchase of recycling containers, banners and benches for Hackensack Street

Secaucus: Funding for summer concerts

North Bergen: Purchase of 20 iron park benches

South Hackensack: Revitalization of Huyler Street

Lyndhurst: Curb and sidewalk programs on Delafield Avenue

Kearny: Installation of security cameras along downtown shopping area and library

Rutherford: Marketing plan for downtown commercial district including creation of Web Site

Ridgefield: Purchase of electronic message board at Borough Hall

East Rutherford: Improvements to Park Avenue parking facility

Little Ferry: Improvements to Washington Avenue and Main Street

Moonachie: Streetscape project along Moonachie Avenue

North Arlington: Streetscape projects along Ridge Road